

Remarks/Arguments

Claim 4 is pending in the present application. Claim 4 has been amended to be in independent form as including the features of generic claim 1. Claims 1-3 have been canceled.

Also by this Preliminary Amendment, the specification has been revised to identify the parent application.

Also, enclosed are two (2) sheets of red-inked Annotated Marked-up Drawings. In Fig. 1, the input terminals have been respectively denoted as 14₁-14₄ as supported on page 11, lines 11-13 of the application. In Fig. 3, the selection signal SL has been denoted as also input to second selectors 30₂-30₄, as supported on page 20, line 23 through to page 21, line 2 of the application. The formal drawings as provided along with this application incorporate the drawing corrections therein.

Applicant respectfully notes that claim 4 has been amended merely to be in independent form as including the features of generic claim 1 and to improve form, not to further distinguish over any cited prior art of record. Accordingly, this amendment should not be construed as narrowing scope within the meaning of *Festo*.

Favorable consideration and early allowance of the present application are earnestly solicited.

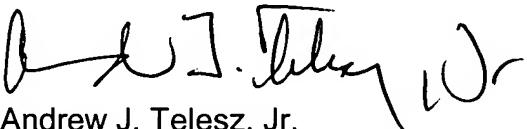
In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (703) 715-0870 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

Serial No. NEW
OIP.022D
Preliminary Amendment dated January 29, 2004

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment for any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Two (2) sheets of red-inked Annotated Marked-up Drawings